

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Light of the World

2021 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @6:30 p.m.

May the beauty of the sanctuary and the heavenly strains of music prepare our hearts and minds for holy worship.

(**Denotes: Please stand if you are able)

*Prelude "Star of the East" *Amanda Kennedy/*
(Organ/Piano) *arr. Ethel Smith*

Words of Welcome Rev. Gerald Gammon

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary, the Son of God, is born this night.

People: God's word has been made flesh among us.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those people who dwelt in a land of deep darkness—on them a light has shined.

Leader: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: He is also called Emmanuel, for in Him God is with us.

Lighting of the Candles (As the candles are lit all say . . .) The Gammons

**We honor our Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

Thanks to all of those who purchased poinsettias. Please remember to take your poinsettia (s) home after the service tonight.

- ◆ In memory of Thomas & Irma Allen & Tommy Jr.
- ◆ Joanne Bode in memory of parents, Herman & Pauline Bode, and aunts and family
- ◆ Keith & Melanie Burger in memory of our parents
- ◆ Jim & Beverly DeSavigny in memory of Jacob
- ◆ Junior & Karen Fumerola in memory of our parents; Covid-19 deaths
- ◆ Judy Fabian in memory of those we lost and miss
- ◆ Phil & Diana Graham in memory of our parents
- ◆ Bill & Linda Paxson in memory of Florence & Beth Teitsworth
- ◆ Sue Schoch in memory of husband, Bill Schoch
- ◆ John & Debbie Wimer



*Pastor: Rev. Gerald Gammon
Director of Music: Karen Fumerola
Guest Organist: Barbara Edwards*

*Unison Prayer

Leader: Let us Pray . . .

People: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of Your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, even as He humbled Himself to share our humanity, amen.

The Promise

Scripture **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** Ron Schoch
Carol #250 "O Little Town of Bethlehem (1, 2, 3)

The Announcement

Scripture **Matthew 1:18-25** Craig Cozad
Carol #243 "Emmanuel"
Carol #266 "That Beautiful Name (1, 2)

The Adoration

Scripture **Luke 2:15-20** Sheryl Cozad
Carol #272 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (1, 2, 3)
Carol #277 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (1, 2)

The Incarnation

Scripture **John 1:1-14** Mark Gammon
Carol #262 "Away in a Manger" (1, 2, 3)
Duet "O Holy Night" Adolph Adam
(Barb Edwards & Judy Fabian)

Choir "A Communion of Carols" *arr. John Purifoy*

Christmas Offering Rev. Gerald Gammon
Offertory "A Thousand Candles" *Karl Harrington*
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer (debt and debtors)

Meditation Rev. Gerald Gammon

Silent Reflection

Candle lighting (*Quiet organ music*)
(Please remember to keep lit candles upright)
*Carol "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Benediction

Postlude/Exit #270 "Joy to the World" (1,4) (Extinguish candles)
(Extinguished candles may be placed in baskets in rear of sanctuary.)

On behalf of the Gammon family and the staff of the First United Church of Christ we wish you all a very merry and blessed Christmas.

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